

1 SCOTT J. SAGARIA (BAR # 217981)  
2 ELLIOT W. GALE (BAR #263326)  
3 JOE B. ANGELO (BAR #268542)  
4 SCOTT M. JOHNSON (BAR #287182)  
**SAGARIA LAW, P.C.**  
5 2033 Gateway Place, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Jose, CA 95110  
408-279-2288 ph  
408-279-2299 fax

6 Attorneys for Plaintiff

7

8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9

10 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA – OAKLAND DIVISION

11 JAMIE TROUT,

CASE NO.

12 Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES:

13 v.  
14 Experian Information Solutions, Inc.;  
15 Equifax, Inc.; JPMorgan Chase Bank; Bank  
16 of America, National Association and  
17 DOES 1 through 100 inclusive,

1. Violation of Fair Credit Reporting Act;
2. Violation of California Consumer Credit Reporting Agencies Act;

18 Defendants.

19 COMES NOW Plaintiff JAMIE TROUT, an individual, based on information and belief, to  
20 allege as follows:

21 **INTRODUCTION**

- 22 1. This case arises under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b) and the  
23 California Consumer Credit Reporting Agencies Act, California Civil Code  
24 §1785.25(a). Plaintiff seeks redress for the unlawful and deceptive practices committed  
25 by the Defendants in connection with their inaccurate, misleading, or incomplete  
26 reporting of Plaintiff's debt included in Plaintiff's Chapter 13 bankruptcy.  
27 2. The United States Congress has found the banking system is dependent upon fair and  
28 accurate credit reporting. Inaccurate credit reports directly impair the efficiency of the

1 banking system, and unfair credit reporting methods undermine the public confidence,  
2 which is essential to the continued functioning of the banking system.

- 3 3. There exists today in the United States a pervasive and fundamental misunderstanding  
4 about the long term impact filing a consumer bankruptcy has on a consumer's credit  
5 worthiness. Specifically, many consumers believe that because a bankruptcy can be  
6 reported on their credit report for ten years their credit worthiness will be ruined for the  
7 same length of time. This is not true.  
8 4. The *majority* of consumer Debtors who file consumer bankruptcy do so to *raise* their  
9 FICO Score and remedy their poor credit worthiness.  
10 5. It is entirely possible for consumer Debtors to have over a 700 FICO Score within as  
11 little as 12 months after filing a consumer bankruptcy (Chapter 7 or Chapter 13).  
12 6. Creditors and lending institutions are aware of the misconception that filing a consumer  
13 bankruptcy destroys a consumer's credit worthiness for ten years.  
14 7. In an effort to perpetuate the aforementioned bankruptcy myth, creditors intentionally  
15 and routinely ignore credit reporting industry standards for accurately reporting  
16 bankruptcies and debts included in those bankruptcies in an effort to keep consumers'  
17 credit scores low and their interest rates high.  
18 8. Creditors know that by deviating from recognized credit reporting standards consumers  
19 will have difficulty raising their credit scores and improving their credit worthiness.  
20 9. These credit reporting issues are most prevalent in Chapter 13 bankruptcy filings.  
21 10. Consequently, in the United States today it is objectively worse for consumers' credit  
22 worthiness to file Chapter 13 and pay back some or all of their debt, as opposed to  
23 filing Chapter 7 liquidation where Creditors generally receive nothing.  
24 11. This was not the intent of Congress when enacting the Fair Credit Reporting Act and  
25 the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act.

26 **JURISDICTION & VENUE**

- 27 12. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by this reference the allegations in each and  
28 every paragraph above, fully set forth herein.  
13. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337, and 1367, and 15 U.S.C. §

14. This venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b).

2                   **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

3       15. Plaintiff alleges that each and every defendant data furnisher was included in Plaintiff's  
4                   Chapter 13 bankruptcy filing.

5       16. Plaintiff alleges that each and every Defendant is familiar with credit reporting industry  
6                   standards and subscribes thereto.

7       17. Plaintiff alleges that each and every Defendant understands that deviation from credit  
8                   reporting industry standards can and often does result in denial of credit, higher interest  
9                   rates, and prompts those making credit decisions to draw a more negative inference  
10                  from the reported data than if the Defendant reported in accordance with the recognized  
11                  industry standard.

12      18. Plaintiff alleges that all actions alleged herein by Defendants were done knowingly,  
13                  intentionally, and in reckless disregard for credit reporting industry standards in an  
14                  attempt to purposefully undermine Plaintiff's ability to reorganize and repair Plaintiff's  
15                  FICO Score.

16      19. In the alternative Plaintiff alleges that each and every Defendant's actions was the  
17                  result of reckless policies and procedures that inevitably led to inaccurate, misleading,  
18                  or incomplete credit reporting.

19                   **FICO, Inc.**

20      20. FICO is a leading analytics software company with its principal headquarters located in  
21                  San Jose California. FICO has over 130 patents related to their analytics and decision  
22                  management technology, and regularly uses mathematical algorithms to predict  
23                  consumer behavior including credit risk.

24      21. The FICO Score has become the standard measure of consumer credit risk in the United  
25                  States and is used in ninety percent of lending decisions.

26      22. A FICO score consists of a three-digit number summarizing a consumer's credit risk or  
27                  likelihood to repay a loan. FICO periodically updates its scoring models resulting in  
28                  multiple FICO Score versions.

- 1       23. Base FICO Scores range from 300 to 850, while industry-specific FICO Scores range
- 2                  from 250-900. A higher FICO Score demonstrates lower credit risk or less likelihood of
- 3                  default.
- 4       24. Different lenders use different versions of FICO Scores when evaluating a consumer's
- 5                  credit worthiness.
- 6       25. There are 28 FICO Scores that are commonly used by lenders.
- 7       26. A consumer's FICO Score is calculated based solely on information in consumer credit
- 8                  reports maintained at credit reporting agencies (CRAs).
- 9       27. The three largest CRAs are Experian Information Solutions, Inc.; Equifax, Inc. and
- 10                  Transunion, LLC.
- 11      28. FICO does not control what information is provided on a consumer's credit report.
- 12                  Instead, the scoring models or algorithms are based on the premise that information
- 13                  provided by the CRAs is accurate and complies with credit reporting industry
- 14                  standards.
- 15      29. There are five key factors that a FICO Score considers: 1) Payment History 2) Amount
- 16                  of Debt 3) Length of Credit History 4) New Credit and 5) Credit Mix.
- 17      30. Each of the five factors is weighted differently by FICO.
- 18      31. 35% of a consumer's FICO Score relates to payment history, 30% relates to the amount
- 19                  of debt, 15% relates to the length of credit history, 10% relates to new credit, and the
- 20                  last 10% relates to a consumer's credit mix or the different types of debts reported.
- 21      32. Payment history refers to whether a consumer has paid their bills in the past, on time,
- 22                  late or missed payments. The more severe, recent, and frequent the late payment
- 23                  information, the greater the impact on a FICO Score. Public record items such as
- 24                  bankruptcy, foreclosure, judgments, and wage garnishments are also considered part of
- 25                  a consumer's payment history.
- 26      33. In factoring the severity of delinquent payments a FICO Score considers how late the
- 27                  payment continues to be, how much is owed, how recently this occurred, and how
- 28                  many delinquent accounts exist.
- 29      34. Once a delinquent account has been remedied the longer the account stays current the
- 30                  more a consumer's FICO Score should increase.

35. FICO Scores are entirely dependent upon information provided by data furnishers (DFs) to CRAs.

36. The FICO scoring formula treats both Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 Bankruptcies similarly in terms of their impact on one's FICO Score. Specifically, both Chapters have the same level of severity with respect to their FICO Score and for both, FICO uses the **FILING DATE** to determine how long ago the bankruptcy took place.

## Metro 2

37. The Consumer Data Industry Association is an international trade association representing the consumer credit, mortgage reporting, employment and tenant screening and collection service industries.

38. The credit reporting industry has adopted a standard electronic data reporting format called the Metro 2 format. The Metro 2 format was developed by the CDIA in an effort to universally report debts in a particular manner that is understood to be the most accurate way in which to report a debt. Specifically, Metro 2 format was designed to allow reporting of the most accurate and complete information on consumer's credit history.

39. The CDIA's Metro 2 format is the credit reporting industry standard for accurate credit reporting.

40. The credit reporting industry at large depends upon Metro 2 and the CDIA's recommendations for reporting debt accurately.

41. The CDIA is *The* expert on accurate credit reporting. In support of this allegation Plaintiff avers the following:

- a. The CDIA offers a FCRA certificate program for all CRAs.
  - b. The CDIA offers a FCRA awareness program for all CRAs.
  - c. The CDIA offers a FCRA Certificate program for DFs.
  - d. The CDIA offers a FCRA awareness program for DFs.
  - e. The CDIA offers a Metro 2 Learning system to provide detailed instructions on the use of Metro 2 format to ensure understanding of the reporting guidelines for each field of the Metro 2 Format as well as the relationship between multiple fields.

- f. The CDIA hosts workshops developed and authorized by Equifax, Experian, Innovis, and Transunion.
  - g. The CDIA developed a credit reporting resource guide for accurately reporting credit.

42. The CDIA's Metro 2 is accepted by all CRAs.

43. The credit reporting accepted industry standards for reporting metro 2 accurately are found in the CDIA's credit reporting resource guide (CRRG).

44. The CRRG outlines the industry standards for most accurately reporting debts using Metro 2.

45. The CRRG is not readily available to the public. It can be purchased online for \$229.45.

46. Even if a buyer is ready willing and able to pay for the CRRG, the CDIA will NOT grant access to the guide unless the buyer represents an organization included in the Metro 2 Access Policy.

47. When FICO calculates credit scores the algorithms use Metro 2 information based on industry standards established by the CDIA.

48. The algorithms used by FICO in determining a consumer's credit score are premised on the Metro 2 data received comporting with the CDIA's recommendations for accurate credit reporting.

49. If the Metro 2 data received by FICO deviates from industry standards an inaccurate or incorrect FICO Score results. If the resulting FICO Score is lower a consumer will be considered a higher credit risk resulting in less favorable lending terms.

e-OSCAR

50. E-OSCAR is the web based Metro 2 compliant system developed by Experian Information Solutions, Inc.; Equifax, Inc.; TransUnion, LLC and Innovis that enables DFs and CRAs to create and respond to consumer credit disputes

51. When a consumer sends a dispute letter to a CRA the CRA then sends an automated credit dispute verification (ACDV) via e-Oscar to the DF.

52. The ACDV contains within it Metro 2 codes next to certain data fields associated with a credit file e.g. "Account Type" "07" (07 in Metro 2 refers to a Charge Account)

1                   **Bankruptcy Credit Reporting Industry Standards & Consumer  
2                   Information Indicator**

- 3       53. When a consumer files bankruptcy certain credit reporting industry standards exist.  
4       54. Certain Metro 2 data is regularly expected and calculated by FICO when determining a  
5                   consumer's credit worthiness.  
6       55. The Consumer Information Indicator (CII) is a critical field in the Metro 2 Format that  
7                   indicates a special condition that applies to a specific consumer.  
8       56. Under Metro 2 the CII must be reported only on the consumer to whom the information  
9                   applies.  
10      57. It is the credit reporting industry standard to report a very specific CII upon the filing of  
11                   a consumer bankruptcy.  
12      58. In the consumer bankruptcy context CII Metro 2 Code "A" denotes that a petition for  
13                   Chapter 7 has been filed, is active, but no discharge has been entered.  
14      59. CII Metro 2 Code "D" indicates that a Chapter 13 petition has been filed, is active, but  
15                   no discharge entered. This is usually translated on a consumer credit report as "Wage  
16                   Earner Plan" or "WEP" in the "Account Status" portion of a trade line. Such reporting  
17                   alerts any potential lender that the account is no longer in a collectable status but is  
18                   being handled by a Chapter 13 trustee.  
19      60. The CII Metro 2 Code "Z" indicates that a bankruptcy petition has been filed but the  
20                   chapter is undesignated/unknown.  
21      61. The CII Metro 2 Code "E" denotes that a Chapter 7 bankruptcy has been discharged.  
22      62. The CII Metro 2 Code "H" denotes that a Chapter 13 bankruptcy has been discharged.  
23      63. The CII field is a critical field for consumers and directly relates to and impacts a  
24                   consumer's credit worthiness.  
25      64. The lack of a CII reported makes it appear that a consumer has not addressed  
26                   outstanding debt obligations through the bankruptcy process.  
27      65. The lack of a CII reported also suggests that creditors are free to collect against a  
28                   consumer as an individual or that no stay exists to prevent *in personam* collection  
                 activity.  
66. Failure to report the correct CII indicator will prompt those making credit decisions to  
draw a more negative inference regarding a consumer's credit worthiness.

- 1       67. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act a bankruptcy can be reported for ten years.
- 2       68. The ten-year rule for reporting runs from the date the bankruptcy was *filed*.
- 3       69. A consumer's FICO Score is directly related to the date on which a petition is filed and  
4           acknowledged.
- 5       70. The more time that has passed since the filing of the bankruptcy, the less negative  
6           impact the bankruptcy will have on a consumer's FICO Score.
- 7       71. Failure to reference the bankruptcy filing (CII field) and or the correct petition date  
8           shall result in a lower FICO Score resulting in those making credit decisions to draw a  
9           more negative inference regarding a consumer's credit worthiness.

**Pre Confirmation Credit Reporting Standards Regarding Balances and  
Ongoing Payments When All Borrowers File Chapter 13**

- 11      72. Certain credit reporting standards exist on how to accurately and completely report  
12           balances on consumer debts pre plan confirmation.
- 13      73. Pre confirmation the accepted credit reporting standard for accurately and completely  
14           reporting a balance included in a Debtor's chapter 13 plan is to report the outstanding  
15           balance amount as of the date of filing.
- 16      74. Pre confirmation the accepted credit reporting standard for accurately and completely  
17           reporting a scheduled monthly payment amount is to report the contractual monthly  
18           payment amount.
- 19      75. Pre confirmation the accepted credit reporting standard for accurately and completely  
20           reporting a past due balance is to report the past due amount as of the time the petition  
21           was filed.
- 22      76. Pre confirmation the accepted credit reporting standard for accurately and completely  
23           reporting ongoing payments is to report the Metro 2 indicator D in Field 18 which  
24           means no payment history available this month.
- 25      77. Within the credit reporting industry, the Metro 2 indicator D is seen as accurately and  
26           completely illustrating that the automatic stay of the bankruptcy is preventing ongoing  
27           collection activities against the debtor and creditors are not anticipating receiving  
28           payments directly from the debtor. The Metro 2 indicator D thus simultaneously  
          illustrates to those making credit decisions that payments were NOT made and received  
          but also NOT anticipated.

78. Deviation from the aforementioned credit reporting industry standards shall result in a more negative inference being drawn with respect to a consumer's credit worthiness

## **Post Confirmation Credit Reporting Standards Regarding Balances and Ongoing Payments When All Borrowers File Chapter 13**

79. Certain credit reporting standards exist on how to accurately and completely report balances and past due balances post plan confirmation.

80. Post confirmation the accepted accurate credit reporting standard for reporting balances is to report the balance owed under the Chapter 13 plan terms. The balance should decrease with payments made.

81. If the plan does not call for payments to be made on a particular debt the accurate credit reporting standard is to report a \$0.00 balance.

82. Post confirmation the accepted accurate credit reporting standard for reporting past due balances is to report a \$0.00 past due balance.

83. Post confirmation the accepted accurate credit reporting standard for monthly payments is the Chapter 13 plan payment amount.

84. Post confirmation the accepted accurate credit reporting standard for payment history is to report the Metro 2 indicator D each month. Reporting ongoing past due amounts and ongoing late payments are not generally accepted as accurate by the credit reporting industry.

85. Plaintiff alleges that the aforementioned industry standards are all readily available in the CRRG which each and every Defendant subscribes thereto.

86. The CDIA and credit reporting industry recognize that allowing Creditors to continuously report on going delinquencies and past due balances post confirmation would objectively make filing Chapter 13 and repaying Creditors exponentially worse for a consumer's credit worthiness as opposed to filing Chapter 7. Thus, deviation from the aforementioned credit reporting industry standards shall result in a more negative inference being drawn with respect to a consumer's credit worthiness.

## **Plaintiffs Bankruptcy Filing**

87. Prior to filing Chapter 13, Plaintiff pulled a credit report on August 7, 2014 to ensure all outstanding debt was properly listed and scheduled in Plaintiff's petition.

88. The credit report was pulled from a third party vendor CIN Legal Data Services.

- 1       89. Plaintiff alleges that all the information contained within the August 7, 2014 CIN report  
2       was compiled by information gathered by CIN directly from the three major CRAs-  
3       Experian Information Solutions, Inc.; Equifax, Inc. and Trans Union, LLC.
- 4       90. The CIN report contained within it Plaintiff's estimated credit score of 680 based on the  
5       information provided by the CRAs.
- 6       91. The CIN report also estimated Plaintiff's 12-month post-bankruptcy credit score at 639.
- 7       92. Plaintiff alleges such scores were based on anticipated accurate credit reporting  
8       industry standards.
- 9       93. Plaintiff filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy protection on August 11, 2014 in order to  
10      reorganize and repair Plaintiff's credit worthiness and FICO Score.
- 11      94. Post filing, Defendants would not accept payments directly from Plaintiff.
- 12      95. Post filing, Defendants were not anticipating receiving payments directly from Plaintiff.
- 13      96. Under the terms of the confirmed Chapter 13 plan, unsecured Creditors are allowed a  
14       0% disbursement of their filed claims over the course of Plaintiff's plan.
- 15      97. Plaintiff's plan was confirmed on January 12, 2015.
- 16      98. On April 14, 2016 Plaintiff ordered a three bureau report from Experian Information  
17       Solutions, Inc. to ensure proper reporting by Plaintiff's Creditors.
- 18      99. Plaintiff noticed 4 different trade lines on the April 14, 2016 credit report all reporting  
19       inaccurate, misleading, or incomplete information that did not comport with credit  
20       reporting industry standards. Specifically, multiple trade lines continued to report  
21       Plaintiff's accounts with inaccurate balances, and/or open. Some accounts even failed  
22       to register that Plaintiff was making payments on the account through Plaintiff's  
23       Chapter 13 plan.
- 24      100. In response, Plaintiff disputed the inaccurate tradelines via certified mail with Experian  
25       Information Solutions, Inc.; Equifax, Inc.; and TransUnion, LLC on June 29, 2016.
- 26      101. Plaintiff's dispute letter specifically put each Creditor on notice that Plaintiff had filed  
27       for bankruptcy and the account was not reporting the bankruptcy accurately or worse  
28       not at all. Plaintiff specifically requested each Creditor investigate the proper way to  
      report Plaintiff's bankruptcy. Plaintiff noted that there should not be any past due  
      balance reported, the account should not be listed as charged off, transferred or sold,

1 with an inaccurate monthly payment or that the account is in collections. There should  
2 not be any late payments reported after Plaintiff's case was filed and to ensure that the  
3 proper monthly payment was being reported. Last, Plaintiff noted that under *Gorman*  
4 *v. Wolpoff & Abramson*, Plaintiff expected the accounts to be reported disputed if the  
5 Creditor disagreed with Plaintiff's dispute.

- 6 102. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each CRA received Plaintiff's dispute letter and  
7 in response sent Plaintiff's dispute to each DF via an ACDV through e-OSCAR.  
8 103. On August 6, 2016 Plaintiff ordered a second three bureau report from Experian  
9 Information Solutions, Inc.to ensure Plaintiff's accounts had been updated.  
10 104. Plaintiff was not pleased to notice that some of the inaccuracies had not been updated  
11 or removed. Plaintiff's Experian score rose by 16 points and Plaintiff's TransUnion  
12 score rose by 5 points.  
13 105. It was now over two years since Plaintiff filed for bankruptcy and Plaintiff's credit  
14 score was well below what accurate credit reporting industry standards would project.  
15 106. Defendant JPMorgan Chase Bank was reporting Plaintiff's account, beginning in  
16 5416xxxx, with a balance in the amount of \$2,068.00, despite the Court Ordered  
17 treatment of its claim under the terms of Plaintiff's Chapter 13 plan of reorganization.  
18 The terms of the plan show that this claim is to be treated as an unsecured debt.  
19 Defendant negligently failed to file a proof of claim, thus the trustee is not making  
20 payment to Defendant. All payments currently owed to Defendant have been made and  
21 Defendant is currently owed \$0.00. The balance listed by Defendant does not comport  
22 with Metro 2 industry standards.  
23 107. Defendant Bank of America, National Association was reporting Plaintiff's account,  
24 beginning in 5466xxxx, with a balance in the amount of \$2,476.00, and monthly  
25 payments owed in the amount of \$92.00, despite the Court Ordered treatment of its  
26 claim under the terms of Plaintiff's Chapter 13 plan of reorganization. The terms of the  
27 plan show that this claim is to be treated as an unsecured debt. Defendant negligently  
28 failed to file a proof of claim, thus the trustee is not making payment to Defendant. All  
payments currently owed to Defendant have been made and Defendant is currently

1 owed \$0.00. The balance listed by Defendant does not comport with Metro 2 industry  
2 standards.

- 3 108. The actions of the Defendants as alleged herein are acts in violation of the Fair Credit  
4 Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b).
- 5 109. The actions of the Defendants as alleged herein are acts in violation of the Consumer  
6 Credit Reporting Agencies Act California Civil Code § 1785.25(a).

7 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 (Violation of Fair Credit Reporting Act 15 U.S.C. § 1681s-2(b))  
Against Defendants and Does 1-100)

9 **JPMorgan Chase Bank and Bank of America, National Association –Failure to  
10 Reinvestigate.**

- 11 110. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein the allegation in each and every paragraph  
12 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 13 111. 15 USC 1681s-2(b) and 15 USC 1681i-(a)1 prohibits furnishers from providing any  
14 information relating to a consumer to any consumer reporting agency if the person knows  
15 or has reasonable cause to believe that the information is inaccurate or misleading and  
16 requires a furnisher to update and or correct inaccurate information after being notified  
17 by a consumer reporting agency of a dispute by a consumer.
- 18 112. Defendants JPMorgan Chase Bank and Bank of America, National Association violated  
19 section 1681s-2(b) by failing to conduct a reasonable investigation and re-reporting  
misleading and inaccurate account information.
- 20 113. The CRAs provided notice to the Defendants that Plaintiff was disputing the inaccurate  
21 and misleading information but JPMorgan Chase Bank and Bank of America, National  
22 Association failed to conduct a reasonable investigation of the information as required by  
the FCRA.
- 23 114. Based on Plaintiff's dispute, Defendants should have known their accounts were included  
in Plaintiff's Chapter 13 plan of reorganization. The most basic investigation would  
include a simple review of well-established credit reporting industry standards.
- 24 115. Plaintiff alleges Defendants did not review well established industry standards for credit  
25 reporting.
- 26
- 27
- 28

- 1 116. If Defendants had reviewed such standards Defendants would have seen their reporting  
2 was not in compliance and consequently inaccurate and or incomplete.
- 3 117. Such an investigation would be unreasonable.
- 4 118. Plaintiff also alleges that Defendants did not investigate whether Plaintiff filed for  
5 bankruptcy, whether their accounts were included, the terms of the plan, or whether or  
6 not the terms had been approved.
- 7 119. The lack of investigation is unreasonable.

8 **Experian Information Solutions, Inc. and Equifax, Inc. – Failure to Reinvestigate  
Disputed Information.**

- 9 120. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein the allegation in each and every paragraph  
10 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 11 121. After Plaintiff disputed the accounts mentioned above, each CRA was required to  
12 conduct a reasonable investigation and to delete any information that was not accurate  
13 under 15 USC 1681i-(a)1.
- 14 122. The most basic investigation required each CRA to send all relevant information via  
15 an ACDV to the furnishers which they did not do.
- 16 123. Thus the CRAs failed to conduct a reasonable investigation and failed to correct the  
17 misleading and or inaccurate statements on the account within the statutory time  
frame or at all.
- 18 124. In the alternative Plaintiff alleges that each CRA has its own independent duty to  
19 conduct a reasonable investigation under 15 USC 1681i-(a)1.
- 20 125. Each CRA is not a passive entity bound to report whatever information a DF  
21 provides.
- 22 126. Plaintiff alleges that each CRA is readily familiar with Metro 2 guidelines and credit  
23 reporting industry standards.
- 24 127. Plaintiff alleges that each CRA can and does suppress inaccurate information from  
25 being reported when DFs provide inaccurate information.
- 26 128. Each CRA can and does instruct DFs on how to properly report certain accounts from  
time to time upon request from the DF.

- 1 129. Each CRA failed to conduct a reasonable investigation because any basic
- 2 investigation would have uncovered that certain DFs were not following credit
- 3 reporting industry standards.
- 4 130. Each CRA would have known that Plaintiff filed for Chapter 13 based on multiple
- 5 other accounts reporting as much.
- 6 131. Each CRA would have known that Plaintiff's plan had been confirmed based on
- 7 multiple other accounts reporting as much.
- 8 132. Each CRA would have known that failure to report a CII given that a Chapter 13 was
- 9 filed did not comport with industry standards.
- 10 133. Each CRA would have known reporting a past due balance post confirmation does
- 11 not comport with industry standards.
- 12 134. Each CRA therefore did not do the most basic investigation regarding credit reporting
- 13 industry standards otherwise the aforementioned would have been uncovered.

**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Violation of California Consumer Credit Reporting Agencies Act  
California Civil Code § 1785.25(a) Against Defendants and Does 1-100)

**JPMorgan Chase Bank and Bank of America, National Association – Reporting  
Inaccurate Information to CRAs.**

135. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates herein the allegation in each and every paragraph
136. In the regular course of its business operations, Defendants routinely furnish
137. Defendants intentionally and knowingly reported misleading and inaccurate account
138. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants re-reported the information contained herein in
139. Plaintiff also alleges that Defendants had reason to know that the information reported
- on Plaintiff's accounts were misleading, inaccurate, incomplete, and did not comport
- with well-established credit reporting industry standards.

- 1 140. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants had reason to know that by not comporting with well-  
2 established industry standards lenders will draw a more negative inference with respect  
3 to Plaintiff's credit worthiness.
- 4 141. Plaintiff alleges that the bankruptcy notices, disputes letters from all three credit  
5 reporting agencies, the consumer data industry resource guide, and results of its  
6 investigation should have provided notice to Defendants of its misleading and  
7 inaccurate reporting as well as being noticed of the plan confirmation and proof of  
claim forms sent by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court.
- 8 142. Defendants failed to notify Experian Information Solutions, Inc. and Equifax, Inc. that  
9 the information Defendants re-reported was inaccurate before the end of 30 business  
10 days, in violation of California Civil Code § 1785.25(a).
- 11 143. Defendants' communications of false information, and repeated failures to investigate,  
12 and correct their inaccurate information and erroneous reporting were done knowingly,  
13 intentionally, and in reckless disregard for their duties and Plaintiff's rights.
- 14 144. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' willful and untrue communications,  
15 Plaintiff has suffered actual damages including but not limited to inability to properly  
16 reorganize under Chapter 13, reviewing credit reports from all three consumer reporting  
17 agencies, time reviewing reports with counsel, sending demand letters, diminished  
credit score, and such further expenses in an amount to be determined at trial.

19 Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for judgment as hereinafter set forth.  
20

21 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

22 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

- 23 1. For preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to stop Defendants from  
24 engaging in the conduct described above;
- 25 2. Award statutory and actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n and  
California Civil Code § 1785.31;
- 26 3. Award punitive damages in order to deter further unlawful conduct pursuant to  
15 U.S.C. § 1681n; and California Civil Code § 1785.31
- 27 4. Award attorney's fees and costs of suit incurred herein pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §

1681n & o; California Civil Code § 1785.31;

5. For determination by the Court that Creditor's policies and practices are unlawful and in willful violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1681n, et seq.; and
  6. For determination by the Court that Creditor's policies and practices are unlawful and in negligent violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1681o;

Dated: October 5, 2016

SAGARIA LAW, P.C.

/s/ Elliot Gale, Esq.

---

Scott Sagaria, Esq.

Elliot Gale, Esq.

Attnorneys for Plaintiff

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff hereby demands trial of this matter by jury.

Dated: October 5, 2016

SAGARIA LAW, P.C.

/s/ Elliot Gale, Esq.

---

Scott Sagaria, Esq.

Elliot Gale, Esq.

Attorneys for Plaintiff